

REMARKS

Claims 20-38 are pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Civanlar (US 5,617,540) in view of Blacket, et al. (US 6,792,337, and in further view Rosotoker, et al. (US 5,708,659).

By way of this amendment, the independent claims have been amended to clarify that the invention as claimed comprises an array of firewall devices, in which each firewall device has two edges through which connections may be made through the firewall device. Moreover, each of the edge connections includes a set of virtual hosts in which each of the individual virtual hosts provide a “distinct home through which a connection may be made”, thereby enabling the firewall device to be a multi-homing gateway device that performs address mapping as claimed. Thus, the firewall device as now claimed includes the capability to perform the mapping functions through multiple and distinct connections, all through a single edge of the device.

Thus, each virtual host may have a different address than the other virtual hosts on a single edge of the firewall device, and each virtual host may be performing address translation separately from the other virtual hosts residing on the same edge of the firewall device. As is now claimed, this capability is present in a single gateway device that includes firewall capabilities.

As will now be appreciated, the ability to have a multiple-homed device in which multiple homes of a single device may perform address mapping and routing as claimed to different machines represents a distinct advantage over the prior art, especially at the time of the filing of the parent application in 1996.

Applicants respectfully submit that the systems of the cited art of record does not provide multiple homes in a single device. It is respectfully submitted that the independent claims are allowable for at least these reasons, and the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reason of being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

Dated: November 19, 2007

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